

10-20-66

Pursuant to instructions, arrangements were made to interview Boris Juht, 98 Harrison Avenue, Port Richmond, Staten Island, New York, together with a German speaking associate of this office. Instructions concerning this interview were set forth in two memoranda of [] dated October 26, 1966 and November 7, 1966.

On Saturday, December 10, 1966 we proceeded to Port Richmond, Staten Island and interviewed Mr. Juht. He resides with his wife and sister-in-law, Maria Medla, in the first floor of a wellkept two family duplex home. [] of this office proceeded to discuss in German our trip by plane and automobile to the Juht home to establish a friendly atmosphere and good rapport. Both Miss Medla and Mrs. Juht, firmly yet with soft spoken voices, stated that Mr. Juht, who was present, had no information concerning Heine or Raus and that they knew of no reason why we should discuss any of the matters.

At this point [] interjected in English and spoke with Mr. Juht who seemed to be reasonably able to converse in English. Both ladies interrupted and in good English with an accent indicated very strongly that other than discussing Mr. Heine and Mr. Raus, about whom there could be no discussion since both men were totally unknown to all of them, they saw no reason to become involved in any discussion. It appeared that Mr. Juht

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

was dominated by the attitude of the ladies. After a lengthy discussion in both English and German, when it was finally conveyed to all of them that we were merely trying to locate persons who may have information, the following was told to us.

Juht knew Ilmar Veskimets. He also knew Elmar Reimo and had read or learned of Reimo's death. Juht knew that Veskimets was primarily concerned with espionage operations and that Veskimets worked mostly in plain clothes.

Juht had never heard the name Sergo Looke.

Juht and the ladies both stated that Colonel Bassen-Spiller was known as an outstanding Estonian patriot. The Colonel had served in the Russian army under the late Czar Nicholas and retired in 1935. He then became the director of an insurance company in Tartu and remained as such until 1940 when the Russians entered and placed him under arrest. The Colonel's wife was of German extraction and under the Von Ribbentrop Pact he was repatriated to Germany because his wife was a German national. They stated that the Colonel went to South America and, after being there approximately ten or twelve years, returned to Germany and they had read a report that the Colonel had died in Germany sometime around 1956.

Juht had known Ain Mere who was a major and had

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

become head of the Estonian Secret Police. Juht had a vague recollection of Mere being sentenced to death by the Russians in absentia.

Juht stated the same in response to questions concerning Erwin Viks. He also agreed that Viks was now possibly living in Australia.

Juht stated that Edward Uduste had acted as chief clerk of the entire Estonian National Police prior to 1939.

Juht stated that it was wrong to say that any Estonian Police officer was fired in 1940. He said actually most left before the Russian occupation in 1940 and went into the woods to hide or any place they could find hiding out in the farm areas. Some Estonian police officers who remained behind had been transferred by the Russians to other cities with the promise of promotion. The families of these police officers who were "transferred" never heard from them again. Through the grapevine this became knowledge to most police officers and greater precautions were taken.

When the Germans re-occupied Estonia from 1941 until September, 1944 all former Estonian police officers were "drafted" back to duty. Juht also stated that most Estonian police officers managed to get out of Estonia up through September, 1944 because of impending Russian re-occupation and such advance knowledge and intelligence

that they had concerning this. Mr. Juht and the ladies recognized the name of Johannes Suvando and all stated that Suvando died in 1946 or 1947 as a result of a bicycle accident in West Germany. Their knowledge of this came to them through the German press.

We felt that the interview had progressed again to the point where some rapport had been reached and we sought information concerning some of the other names contained in both Veskimets interviews without success.

We then attempted to obtain the pedigree in a general conversational nature of Mr. Juht. This created a great deal of excitement and in Estonian, German and English it was made plain that it was a very personal matter and they did not see where it entered into the law suit, or in double checking statements of other witnesses who I refer having met Mr. Juht in various places. This time Mr. Juht seemed to be dominated by the women's refusal to make any disclosures. After a careful and detailed explanation of the need to know in the future whether Mr. Juht could be of any help concerning any statements made in which there was a place and time coincidence with other witnesses of his own itinerary a limited history was obtained.

Mr. Juht was born in Tartu on July 1, 1903.

He attended several schools and entered the Estonian National Police in 1933 and served until 1940, the first Russian occupation. He then hid in the woods and did not return until the Germans entered September, 1941 when he was "drafted" back into the police. He remained in the police through late August, 1944. His duties from 1941 to 1944 started with mopping up operations and identification of the various dead left behind in the battle between the Germans and the Russians over Tartu. All of his years from 1941 to 1944 he spent as a uniformed police officer charged with the enforcement of local crimes against persons and property in Tartu.

With his wife he made his way to Germany in September, 1944 and entered the first displacement camp there at Gettingen. They were thereafter transferred to Geisslingen and from there migrated in 1947 to Venezuela. They remained in Venezuela until March 31, 1955 when, under the Estonian quota, they were able to obtain visas for permanent entry into the United States. They arrived at Portland, Maine March 31, 1955 aboard a bulk fuel tanker the SS ULYSSES, having sailed from Puerto la Cruz in Venezuela. The largest industry in Puerto la Cruz is Sinclair. Both Juhts proceeded immediately to the home of Maria Medla, Mrs. Juht's spinster sister, and her now deceased father. Mr. Juht

RECEIVED
JUL 1 1955
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

did not state where he was employed at this time nor was he pressed for that information. He became a U. S. citizen on December 6, 1960 at the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Petition Number 607580, Certificate Number 8247198.

Mr. Juht, who is 63 years of age, is a very mild mannered man. He stated that he had been subject to dizzy spells over the last years and was fearful of falling down under automobiles and trains. He also stated that he suffered lapses of memory and for this reason was very reluctant to be any more than generally responsive to all questions.

Despite the reluctance of Juht to talk freely and the restrictive atmosphere created by the vociferous presence of his wife and sister-in-law it was our impression that they were all being truthful to the extent that they were responsive. It was also our impression that Mr. Juht might have additional information, the nature of which was unknown to us. It could well be that at some future date, if leads established indicate the possibility of some information, a re-interview would be in order and an honest response could reasonably be expected.